

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0252

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1592

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SG, XJ, SF, PO, AO, CG, FR, AG, ETRD IV, UR, PU, MR

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR

REF: DAKAR 1541

SUMMARY: DURING DINNER WITH AMBASSADOR MARCH 13, PRESIDENT SENGHOR SAID PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HAD NOT YET REPLIED TO HIS PROPOSAL SEND DELEGATION SENEGALESE JURISTS TO SOUTH AFRICA. SENGHOR OUTLINED HIS POLICY ON COORDINATING SENEGALESE INITIATIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WITH OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS. PRESIDENT SUPPORTED
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RETENTION OF CABINDA AS PART ANGOLA AND ERITREA AS PART OF

ETHIOPIA. HE SAID SENEGAL NO LONGER ON SAME WAVELENGTH WITH ALGERIA ON DC-LDC PROBLEMS AND THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS WITH SHAH OF IRAN. SENGHOR WAS CONCERNED OVER HOUPOUET BOIGNY'S HEALTH BUT DESPITE ARDUOUS SCHEDULE, SENEGALESE PRESIDENT SEEMED AS FIT AS EVER. END SUMMARY.

1. SENGHOR WAS UNUSUALLY RELAXED DURING TWO HOUR DINNER CONVERSATION AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE MARCH 13. OTHERS PRESENT WERE MY WIFE AND PRESIDENT'S YOUNG SON, PHILLIPE, WHO RETIRED IMMEDIATELY AFTER DESSERT.

2. SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS FIRST TOPIC. SENGHOR SAID HE STILL AWAITED PRESIDENT VORSTER'S RESPONSE TO HIS PROPOSITION TO SEND SENEGALESE JURISTS TO SEEK OPINIONS OF VARIOUS SEGMENTS SA POPULATION (SEE REFTEL). HE HAD IN MIND CONTACTS WITH WHITES, COLOREDS, INDIANS, AND BLACKS LIVING IN BANTUSTANS AND ELSEWHERE. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER HE HAD DISCUSSED PROPOSITION WITH LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, HE SAID HIS POLICY WAS TO TAKE INITIATIVES AND INFORM "CERTAIN PEOPLE" LATER. ACCORDINGLY HE HAD EARLY CONVERSATIONS WITH SPINOLA BEFORE ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH PAIGC ON HIS EVENTUAL ROLE AS MEDIATOR WHICH EASED NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO GUINEA BISSOU'S INDEPENDENCE. HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AFTER VORSTER REPLIED. THERE WAS NO PROBLEM BECAUSE SWAPO REP IS RESIDENT IN DAKAR. SENEGAL'S POLICY WAS COORDINATED WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA, WHO WOULD VISIT DAKAR APRIL 20. NYERERE OF TANZANIA AND KHAMA OF BOTSWANA WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON SENEGALESE INITIATIVES. OAU FONMINS WOULD DISCUSS POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA AT APRIL MEETING IN DAR ES SALAAM AND HE DOUBTED IF THERE WOULD BE UNANIMITY ON ANY GIVEN APPROACH TO SOUTH AFRICA, BUT HE FELT NEED TO MOVE AHEAD NOW. HIS ACTIONS WERE COORDINATED ALSO WITH PRESIDENT HOUPOUET-BOIGNY OF IVORY COAST BUT NOT YET WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT OF LIBERIA. TOLBERT, HE FEARED, CONDUCTED HIS DIALOGUE "A BIT TOO OPENLY."

3. SENGHOR SAID HE MAINTAINED CORRESPONDENCE WITH VORSTER "WHO IS NO FOOL", AND MUST REALIZE THAT BANTUSTAN SOLUTION WILL NEVER WORK. VORSTER MAY HAVE IN MIND BEGINNING RACIAL INTEGRATION IN BANTUSTAN SINCE SENEGALESE CHIEF JUSTICE KEBA M'BAYE REPORTED THAT HE OBSERVED CONSIDERABLE INTERRACIAL FRATERNIZATION IN HOMELAND AREAS DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO SA. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. TURNING TO PORTUGAL, SENGHOR EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH CURRENT SITUATION. HE FELT COMMUNISTS HAD CLEVERLY ENTRAPPED SPINOLA AND THAT SOCIALISTS, WHOM HE RESPECTS, MIGHT BE SQUEEZED OUT OF GOVERNMENT.

5. RELATIONS WITH FRANCE WERE GOOD DESPITE HIS SHARP CRITICISM AT BANGUI SUMMIT OF FRENCH DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BLACK AFRICAN

WORKERS. NUMBER OF FRENCH IN SENEGAL DOWN FROM PRE-WAR 60,000 TO CURRENT 20,000, AND HE HAD TO SLOW DOWN SENEGALIZATION POLICY BECAUSE FRENCH TECHNICIANS WHO WERE NEEDED WERE GIVING WAY TO SENEGALESE BEFORE LATTER PROPERLY TRAINED.

6. INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT AT BANGUI SUMMIT WAS ZAIRE'S ATTEMPT TO GET SENEGALESE SUPPORT FOR SEPARATE INDEPENDENCE FOR CABINDA. SENGHOR'S REPLY WAS THAT SENEGAL OPPOSED SECESSION OF KATANGA, BIAFRA, ERITREA AND HAD NO INTENTION OF CHANGING RATIONALE NOW. ZAIRIANS CLAIMED CABINDA RESIDENTS DESIRED SEPARATE INDEPENDENCE TO ENABLE THEM LATER TO BECOME PART OF ZAIRE. SENGHOR SAID HIS NEPHEW, AMBASSADOR TO LIBREVILLE, TOLD HIM CABINDAN LEADERS HE MET IN GABON, CONFIRMED THIS DESIRE AND INTENTION. ONE FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN COLLEAGUE AT BANGUI SUGGESTED GROUP SHOULD GET AMERICANS TO GUARANTEE ANGOLAN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY INCLUDING CABINDA, BUT SENGHOR INSISTED THIS WAS MATTER FOR AFRICANS.

7. I CITED GROWING ALGERIAN LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THIRD WORLD AND NOTED GENERAL EXCESSES OF DAKAR COMMODITY CONFERENCE. SENGHOR SAID HE WAS GETTING IMPATIENT WITH ARABS AND IT WAS NOW CLEAR THAT SENEGAL AND ALGERIA WERE NOT ON SAME WAVE LENGTH. HE HAD DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF ALGERIAN LEADERSHIP PRIVATELY WITH SHAH AT ST. MORITZ MEETING FOLLOWING DAKAR CONFERENCE. PROBLEMS WERE FACT MANY AFRICAN STATES LET ALGERIANS ASSUME LEADERSHIP ROLE WITH THOUGHT THEY WOULD THUS BE MORE LIKELY TO GET PETRODOLLARS FROM OPEC STATES. HE NOTED NEW DANGEROUS TENDENCY IN THIRD WORLD AND AFRICAN MEETINGS TO TAKE DECISIONS BY CONSENSUS. ANOTHER DIFFICULTY WAS LACK OF PUNCH AMONG AFRICA'S MORE MODERATE LEADERS WHOSE CABINET MINISTERS WERE MUCH MORE FREE-WHEELING THAN FIVE YEARS AGO.

8. SENGHOR WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET'S
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HEALTH. HE FOUND HIM MUCH LESS LUCID AT BANGUI AND HAD HIMSELF TO ASSUME MORE CENTRAL ROLE THAN NORMAL IN MEETINGS WHERE HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY PRESENT. HOUPHOUET EXCUSED HIMSELF FROM ONE IMPORTANT DINNER, AND LEFT OTHERS EARLY. SENGHOR CLAIMED IVORIAN PRESIDENT CLOSER TO 74 THAN OFFICIAL AGE OF 69.

9. SENGHOR ONCE AGAIN CITED THREAT OF SOVIET PRESENCE IN AFRICA AND DEPLORED FISHING AGREEMENTS MAURITANIA AND GUINEA-BISSAU HAD SIGNED WITH USSR. EARLIER HE HAD RECEIVED SOVIET VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO WAS CONDUCTING AFRICAN CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING IN DAKAR. VICE FONMIN BROUGHT INVITATION TO VISIT MOSCOW, BUT SENGHOR CLAIMED HE POSTPONED REPLY.

10. REST OF EVENING WAS SPENT IN DISCUSSION OF WILLIAM FAULKNER, AIME CESAIRE, JACQUES RABAMANANJARA AND OTHER WRITERS SENGHOR

ADMIRE. WHEN SPEAKING OF CESAIRE, HE SAID HE ADVISED FRENCH
PRESIDENT GISCARD TO CONSIDER LOCAL AUTONOMY FOR FRENCH WEST INDIES.

11. COMMENT: SENGHOR APPEARED RESTED DESPITE HIS 52 HOUR WORK
WEEK AND FREQUENT STATE VISITS AND VISITORS. HE LOOKED FORWARD
TO QUARTERLY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH ON MARCH 15 AND
CAR BOKASSA'S STATE VISIT BEGINNING MARCH 19. HE PERSONALLY HAD
JUST COMPLETED PLANS FOR TWO NEW AGRICULTURE SCHOOLS. HE CONTINUES
TO EXERCISE PREDOMINANT LEADERSHIP ROLE IN SENEGAL AND MANAGES
TO KEEP HIS HAND IN MOST MAJOR DECISIONS. OBVIOUSLY, HE UNABLE
MANAGE EVERY DETAIL SENEGAL'S ROLE IN NON-ALIGNED WORLD IS
SUBJECT HE NOW GIVING CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT.
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